Sea bass

The Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), also known as European seabass, is one of two species within the Family of *Moronidae*, the other the Spotted seabass (*Dicentrarchus punctatus*) (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). The Sea bass is, according to Pickett and Pawson, a favorite fish among both anglers and restaurants across the entirety of Europe (1994). The Sea bass is a migratory species, as they forage from area to area, as well as native to the North Sea and Wadden Sea (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015).

History/ Population trends

In the UK, anglers once had almost exclusive use of the sea bass resource, and in the period 1945-70, bass sport fishing was popularized (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). This was partly because catching a large, silvery bass from the surf was considered one of angling's ultimate experiences (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). For many years this idyll typified bass fishing for those who could only read about this branch of sea angling (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). In reality, there was also a significant amount of boat fishing for bass being practiced by those with access to vessels in the right places (Pickett & Pawson, 1994).

After the Second World War, following seven years of negligible fishing activity and with a reduced fishing fleet, beach anglers had plenty of space and fish (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). By the 1960s, more British anglers owned cars and could afford holidays away from home, and the well-known but relatively unused beaches, where bass fed and could be caught close inshore, came under increased fishing pressure (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). Those anglers who wanted easier fishing went afloat and publicity was given to places where good catches were taken (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). Boat fishing marks in English waters also became famous (Pickett & Pawson, 1994). To this day Sea bass is one of the most sought-after fish in both sport angling as well as for commercial purposes (Pickett & Pawson, 1994).

Miscellaneous

- The Order under which Sea bass fall is the Order *Perciformes* is the largest Order of fish species in the world, numbering at least 7500 species (Pickett & Pawson, 1994).
- Sea bass can reach a maximum length of 1m, though the average length is about 60cm (Azevedo et al., 2023; Vandeputte et al., 2019).

Diet

- Sprat (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Sandeel (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Mackerel (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Sardine (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Small fish (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Annelida (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Crustaceans (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Squid (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015)
- Cannibalism (Vázquez & Muñoz-Cueto, 2015).

Sources

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